



## Birthday felicitations for AFZAL HOSSAIN!

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Afzal Hossain broke into the scene as a small screen hero, appearing in many male lead roles over the years. A man of diverse talents, his creativity extends to direction, painting and poetry. Today is the noted star's birthday, and the special occasion never deters the artiste from his daily round of activities and work.

Afzal Hossain has no big plans for today. "If people don't call to wish me, I may even forget today is any different," he remarked. However, the father of two is loved immensely by his family and friends, and his sons never fail to make the day special with pleasant surprises.

For any fan, a favourite star's birthday never goes unnoticed, but the undemanding Afzal Hossain wants nothing but kind thoughts and wishes. "I love my work,



and I am very content with my life. However, I'd like prayers from everyone," he added.

However, birthdays had a different significance for the actor in his younger days. "As a student, I couldn't contain my excitement, but having grown increasingly busy over the years, I cannot feel the same joy anymore. I do however appreciate and love the efforts my loved ones make," he said.

Once a busy actor, Afzal Hossain is now a busy entrepreneur who does not take on as many TV projects. During Eid ul Fitr the actor appeared on screen on a few plays, and will appear in a couple of ventures for Eid ul Azha. "I cannot fail viewers' expectations, and that compels me to return to the screen," he quipped.



## Beneath the shades of Nuhash Polli

### 5th death anniversary of Humayun Ahmed

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Humayun Ahmed, a man who needs no introduction to the people of Bangladesh, passed away in US on this day in 2012. A writer, filmmaker, novelist and teacher, the noted litterateur has several identities. His favourite spot was Nuhash Polli, where he lovingly built a retreat.

Before visiting Nuhash Polli, I went to his Dhanmondi residence, Dakkhin Hawa, several times. On one of his birthdays on November 13, he was busy shooting an Eid play. During the lunch break, he asked me, "Have you ever been here earlier? Let's go to introduce you to its variety of trees."

"I came to know about the trees of Nuhash Polli from your books," I told the writer.

Pointing a tree, he said, "This is Rashundi (garlic) plant. The smell of garlic and its leaves are the same."

Following him, I could really smell the fragrance of garlic after crushing a leaf on my palm.

Pointing to another tree, he said, "You can smell the

fragrance of spice from it. We cook chicken with it; it tastes delicious." I again crushed a leaf, and smelled the fragrance of spice.

In between, pointing at a rooster, he said, "This is a turkey. US soldiers like it very much."

He went on to introduce me to several other trees, including a tree whose leaves were sweet, and one he brought from Chennai, India that is useful for diabetics.

Asked why he selected that place to build Nuhash Polli, Humayun sir said that he chose it because he was looking for a big unbroken stretch of land at once, and this was the ideal choice.

He also introduced me to tea, date and tamarind trees.

After the break for lunch, he was again busy with shooting.

On my departure that night, he asked me to visit Nuhash Polli once again.

Nuhash Polli was Humayun Ahmed's niche, a place he felt most comfortable. It is where he is laid to rest, as he wished. It's where his presence still lingers, as it does in the hearts of those of us who knew him closely.

## GOT Season 7 premiere breaks ratings records

The episode drew 16.1 million total viewers, including 10.1 million who watched on the linear channel and the rest coming from DVR and streaming. That represents an incredible 50% increase from last year's premiere, when the show premiered in the spring when TV viewership is typically higher than the summer. That also makes the episode the most-watched season premiere for any HBO series to date. The Season 7 premiere also saw the highest number of concurrent viewers across the streaming services HBO Go and HBO Now.

"Game of Thrones" Season 6 ultimately averaged a gross audience of



25.7 million viewers per episode across platforms and in delayed viewing, making it the most watched season of an HBO series on record. The series is also a rarity in today's television landscape, in that its viewership has increased with each season.

In addition, the premiere was also the show's most-tweeted episode of all time. 2.4 million tweets were sent during the episode, with Ed Sheeran's cameo alone driving approximately 7% of the online conversation. Viewers also expressed appreciation for Arya Stark, referring to her as "bada—" and "savage." The show's strong female characters also inspired fans to tweet "the future is female."

Source: Variety

## Humayun Ahmed's story comes alive

### "Rupa'r Jonno Bhalobasha" on channel i tonight



A CORRESPONDENT

In remembrance of legendary writer and director, Humayun Ahmed, whose death anniversary falls today, Channel i will air special programmes commemorating his work throughout the day. A telefilm titled "Rupa'r Jonno Bhalobasha", based on a story by the litterateur, will also be telecast.

The screenplay and direction were both given by Raju Alim. The telefilm stars Chanchal Chowdhury, Lux Channel i superstars Ishana Khan and Mumtazeha Chowdhury Toya, Shahidul Alam Sachchu, Kazi Ujjal, Iqbal Babu, Riaz Hossain, Mahbub Alam, Muna Chowdhury and more.

The story revolves around a girl named Rupa, who studies in Dhaka University. A young man falls in love with Rupa at first sight. He follows Rupa around, but is unable to confess his love for her. Through quick thinking, he even gets hold of her address from her chauffeur. The story unfolds as it turns out that Rupa is not the girl he is looking for.

"Rupa'r Jonno Bhalobasha" will air today at 7:50 PM on Channel i.

## BSA to confer Shilpkala Padak on July 20

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Shilpkala Academy (BSA) has instituted the Shilpkala Padak to recognise seasoned artistes for their contributions to the fields of fine art, theatre, music, dance, instrumental music, folk music and film. Seven creative personalities from different arenas will receive the awards at a ceremony to be held at National Theatre Hall Auditorium of Bangladesh Shilpkala Academy on July 20.

A press conference was held yesterday in this connection at BSA. Liaquat Ali Lucky, director general of BSA, along with other senior officials of the academy were present at the press meet. The authority has announced the names of seven personalities -- Pabitra Mohan Dey (Instrumental Music), Md. Golam Mostafa Khan (Dance), Golam Mustafa (Photography), Kalidas Karmakar (Fine Art), Siraj Uddin Khan Pathan (Folklore), Syed Jamil Ahmed (Theatre) and Mita Haq (Vocal Music).

President Abdul Hamid, gracing the occasion as chief guest, will hand out awards to the personalities at the programme. Cultural Affairs Minister Asaduzzaman Noor will be present as special guest. Cultural Affairs Secretary Md. Ibrahim Hossain Khan will preside over the programme. Director general of BSA Liaquat Ali Lucky will deliver the welcome address.

Each awardee will receive Taka one lakh, a gold medal and a certificate. A cultural programme will follow.



Kalidas Karmakar



Md. Golam Mostafa Khan



Golam Mustafa



Syed Jamil Ahmed



Mita Haq



Pabitra Mohan Dey



Siraj Uddin Khan Pathan

## Open places for fine arts Brahmaputra river banks never fail to inspire

AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

Artist Hossain Muhammad Farook has been using an innovative technique to teach fine arts to his students at different outdoor spots on the bank of Brahmaputra river.

Farook, director of "Light and Shade Academy of Fine Arts" has been running his academy at the town's Udayan High School for one-and-a-half-years.

Farook, born in the remote char village of Baghabdab in 1974 in Mymensingh sadar upazila, did his Honours and Masters in Fine Arts from Faculty of Fine Arts of Dhaka University.

Talking to the Daily Star, Farook said, as he hails from Mymensingh, he wants to do something for Mymensingh's children.

"As I am from the Northern side of Brahmaputra river, I strongly believe that the country's riverine beauty is a great inspiration for artists," said Farook.

World famous maestro Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin from Mymensingh did many sketches on Brahmaputra's banks and the artist always harks back to the priceless impact of Brahmaputra on his brilliant career, said



Farook.

"So I frequently visit different spots beside the river to unleash the talents of my students.

"You don't need to hunt for subjects for your paintings. There is an abundance of subjects alongside the river and you just need to capture them on your paper," said the artist.

The eye-catching beauty of Brahmaputra enriched with "kashphool", natural flowers and different types of crops and vegetables round the year is an ideal setting for the fine arts.

Students also work on their art at the academy campus. Currently the academy has 70 students in two batches- from class one to eight and nine to masters.

Tanzina Tanim, an Honours student, taking art lessons for a year at the academy said that the experience of the outdoors is very enriching.

Songjukta Chakraborty, a second year intermediate student of the same academy said "When we are lost in the deep green of nature, there is nothing more enjoyable than the fine arts."